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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1   1. A hardware setup method comprising:
2   accessing a server data processing system, by a
3   client data processing system, via a data processing
4   system network;
5   requesting over the data processing system network
6   an execution of a hardware setup program by the server
7   data processing system;
8   receiving, in the client data processing system,
9   one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware setup
10   operation; and
11   modifying the hardware configuration data on the
12   client data processing system according to instructions
13   generated by the hardware setup program on the server
14   data processing system.

2. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:
        if the hardware setup operation required by the
    client data processing system exists on an operating
    system running on the client data processing system,
5   the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6   operation by using a service provided by the operating
7   system.

1   3. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:
2   the hardware setup operation is performed by
3   changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4   data on the client data processing system.

1   4. The hardware setup method of Claim 1, wherein:

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2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system does not exist on an

4   operating system running on a client data processing

5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS

7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   5. A hardware setup method comprising:

2   allowing a client data processing system to access

3   a server data processing system via a data processing

4   system network;

5   receiving a request over the data processing

6   system network for an execution of a hardware setup

7   program by the server data processing system;

8   executing the hardware setup program on the server

9   data processing system;

10   sending to the client data processing system one

11   or more dynamic link modules for the hardware setup

12   operation; and

13   modifying the hardware configuration data on the

14   client data processing system according to instructions

15   generated by the hardware setup program on the server

16   data processing system.

1   6. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:

2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system exists on an operating

4   system running on a client data processing system, the

5   hardware setup program performs the hardware setup

6   operation by using a service provided by the operating

7   system.

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1   7. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:
2   the hardware setup operation is performed by
3   changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4   data on the client data processing system.

1   8. The hardware setup method of Claim 5, wherein:
2   if the hardware setup operation required by the
3   client data processing system does not exist on an
4   operating system running on a client data processing
5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   9. A hardware setup method comprising:
2   accessing a server data processing system, by a
3   client data processing system, via a data processing
4   system network;
5   requesting over the data processing system network
6   an execution of a hardware setup program by the server
7   data processing system;
8   receiving, in the client data processing system,
9   one or more library files containing libraries used in
10   executing the hardware setup program and/or one or more
11   device driver files containing device drivers used in
12   executing the hardware setup program; and
13   modifying the hardware configuration data on the
14   client data processing system according to instructions
15   generated by the hardware setup program on the server
16   data processing system.

1   10. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

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3   client data processing system exists on an operating
4   system running on a client data processing system, the
5   hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6   operation by using a service provided by the operating
7   system.

1   11. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2   the hardware setup operation is performed by
3   changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4   data on the client data processing system.

1   12. The hardware setup method of Claim 9, wherein:
2   if the hardware setup operation required by the
3   client data processing system does not exist on an
4   operating system running on a client data processing
5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   13. A hardware setup method comprising:
2   allowing a client data processing system to access
3   a server data processing system via a data processing
4   system network;
5   receiving a request over the data processing
6   system network for an execution of a hardware setup
7   program by the server data processing system;
8   executing the hardware setup program on the server
9   data processing system;
10   sending to the client data processing system one
11 or more library files containing libraries used in
12 executing the hardware setup program, one or more
13 device driver files containing device drivers used in

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14   executing the hardware setup program; and

15   modifying the hardware configuration data on the

16   client data processing system according to instructions

17   generated by the hardware setup program on the server

18   data processing system.

1   14. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system exists on an operating

4   system running on a client data processing system, the

5   hardware setup program performs the hardware setup

6   operation by using a service provided by the operating

7   system.

15. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

the hardware setup operation is performed by

changing one or more items of hardware configuration

data on the client data processing system.

16. The hardware setup method of Claim 13, wherein:

if the hardware setup operation required by the

client data processing system does not exist on an

4   operating system running on a client data processing

5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS

7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   17. A data processing system program product for hardware

2   setup, comprising:

3   instructions for accessing a server data

4   processing system, by a client data processing system,

5   via a data processing system network;

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6   instructions for requesting over the data

7   processing system network an execution of a hardware

8   setup program by the server data processing system;

9   instructions for receiving, in the client data

10   processing system, one or more dynamic link modules for

11   a hardware setup operation; and

12   instructions for modifying the hardware

13   configuration data on the client data processing system

14   according to instructions generated by the hardware

15   setup program on the server data processing system.

1   18. The data processing system program product of Claim 17,

2   wherein:

3   if the hardware setup operation required by the

4   client data processing system exists on an operating

5   system running on the client data processing system,

6   the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup

7   operation by using a service provided by the operating

8   system.

1   19. The data processing system program product of Claim 17,

2   wherein:

3   the hardware setup operation is performed by

4   changing one or more items of hardware configuration

5   data on the client data processing system.

1   20. The data processing system program product of Claim 17,

2   wherein:

3   if the hardware setup operation required by the

4   client data processing system does not exist on an

5   operating system running on a client data processing

6   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

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7   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS

8   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   21. A data processing system program product for hardware

2   setup, comprising:

3   instructions for allowing a client data processing

4   system to access a server data processing system via a

5   data processing system network;

6   instructions for receiving a request over the data

7   processing system network for an execution of a

8   hardware setup program by the server data processing

9   system;

10   instructions for executing the hardware setup

11   program on the server data processing system;

12   instructions for sending to the client data

13   processing system one or more dynamic link modules for

14   the hardware setup operation; and

15   instructions for modifying the hardware

16   configuration data on the client data processing system

17   according to instructions generated by the hardware

18   setup program on the server data processing system.

1   22. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,

2   wherein:

3   if the hardware setup operation required by the

4   client data processing system exists on an operating

5   system running on a client data processing system, the

6   hardware setup program performs the hardware setup

7   operation by using a service provided by the operating

8   system.

1   23. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,

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2   wherein:

3   the hardware setup operation is performed by

4   changing one or more items of hardware configuration

5   data on the client data processing system.

1   24. The data processing system program product of Claim 21,

2   wherein:

3   if the hardware setup operation required by the

4   client data processing system does not exist on an

5   operating system running on a client data processing

6   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

7   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS

8   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   25. A hardware setup system comprising:

2   means for accessing a server data processing

3   system, by a client data processing system, via a data

4   processing system network;

5   means for requesting over the data processing

6   system network an execution of a hardware setup program

7   by the server data processing system;

8   means for receiving, in the client data processing

9   system, one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware

10   setup operation; and

11   means for modifying the hardware configuration

12   data on the client data processing system according to

13   instructions generated by the hardware setup program on

14   the server data processing system.

1   26. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:

2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system exists on an operating

4   system running on the client data processing system,
5   the hardware setup program performs the hardware setup
6   operation by using a service provided by the operating
7   system.

1   27. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:
2   the hardware setup operation is performed by
3   changing one or more items of hardware configuration
4   data on the client data processing system.

1   28. The hardware setup system of Claim 25, wherein:
2   if the hardware setup operation required by the
3   client data processing system does not exist on an
4   operating system running on a client data processing
5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program
6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS
7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   29. A hardware setup system comprising:
2   means for accessing a server data processing
3   system, by a client data processing system, via a data
4   processing system network;
5   means for receiving a request over the data
6   processing system network for an execution of a
7   hardware setup program by the server data processing
8   system;
9   means for fulfilling the request over the data
10   processing system network for the execution of the
11   hardware setup program by the server data processing
12   system;
13   means for sending to the client data processing
14   system one or more dynamic link modules for the

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15   hardware setup operation; and

16   means for modifying the hardware configuration

17   data on the client data processing system according to

18   instructions generated by the hardware setup program on

19   the server data processing system.

1   30. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system exists on an operating

4   system running on a client data processing system, the

5   hardware setup program performs the hardware setup

6   operation by using a service provided by the operating

7   system.

1   31. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2   the hardware setup operation is performed by

3   changing one or more items of hardware configuration

4   data on the client data processing system.

1   32. The hardware setup system of Claim 29, wherein:

2   if the hardware setup operation required by the

3   client data processing system does not exist on an

4   operating system running on a client data processing

5   system, the hardware setup program calls a BIOS program

6   on the client data processing system, and uses the BIOS

7   program to perform the hardware setup operation.

1   33. A data processing system, comprising:

2   a CPU, a main memory, an external storage device,

3   and a network connection device, wherein the external

4   storage device is a recording medium containing a data

5   processing system program product; the data processing

6   system program product having instructions for:

7   accessing a server data processing system, by a

8   client data processing system, via a data processing

9   system network;

10   requesting over the data processing system network

11   an execution of a hardware setup program by the server

12   data processing system;

13   receiving, in the client data processing system,

14   one or more dynamic link modules for a hardware setup

15   operation; and

16   modifying the hardware configuration data on the

17   client data processing system according to instructions

18   generated by the hardware setup program on the server

19   data processing system.

34.   The data processing system of Claim 33, further
comprising a reader for reading in the recorded contents of
the recording medium.

35.   The data processing system according to Claim 33,
wherein said reader is a portable recording medium reader.

1   36.   The data processing system according to Claim 33,

2   wherein said reader is a network connection device.

1   37.   A data processing system, comprising:

2   a CPU, a main memory, an external storage device,

3   and a network connection device, wherein the external

4   storage device is a recording medium containing a data

5   processing system program product; the data processing

6   system program product having instructions for:

7   allowing a client data processing system to access

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8   a server data processing system via a data processing

9   system network;

10   receiving a request over the data processing

11   system network for an execution of a hardware setup

12   program by the server data processing system;

13   executing the hardware setup program on the server

14   data processing system;

15   sending to the client data processing system one

16   or more dynamic link modules for the hardware setup

17   operation; and

18   modifying the hardware configuration data on the

19   client data processing system according to instructions

20   generated by the hardware setup program on the server

21   data processing system.

38.   The data processing system of Claim 37, further
comprising a reader for reading in the recorded contents of
the recording medium.

39.   The data processing system according to Claim 37,
wherein said reader is a portable recording medium reader.

1   40.   The data processing system according to Claim 37,

2   wherein said reader is a network connection device.